

REMARKS

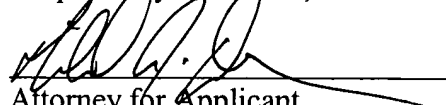
Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 18-33 are presented for consideration. Claims 18 and 29 are independent. Claims 29-33 are newly added to provide Applicant with an additional scope of coverage. Support for these claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicant submits that the pending claims patentably define features of the exposure method, the exposure apparatus and the device manufacturing method of the present invention. Applicant submits, therefore, that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are also requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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